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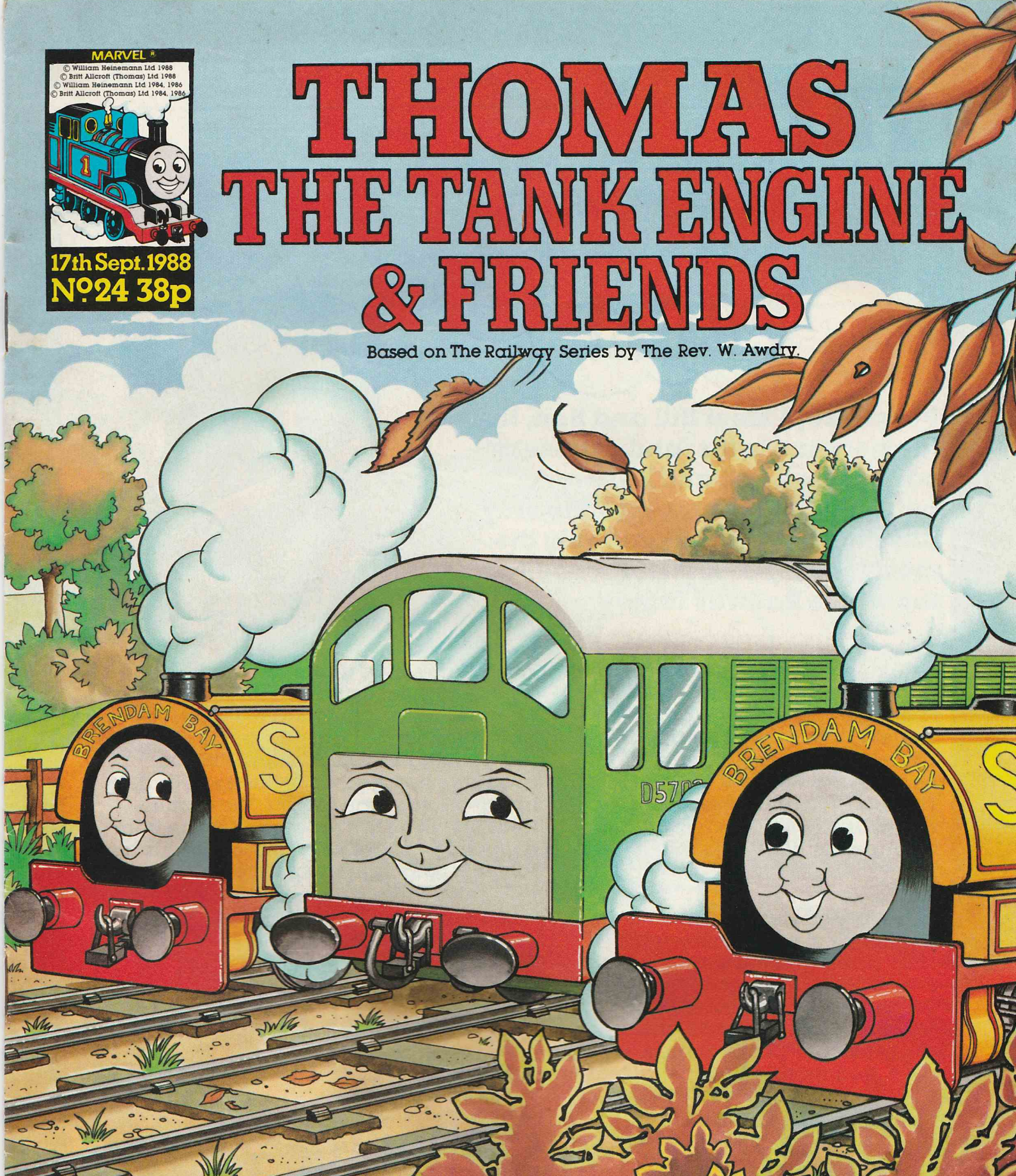
17th Sept. 1988
No. 24 38p

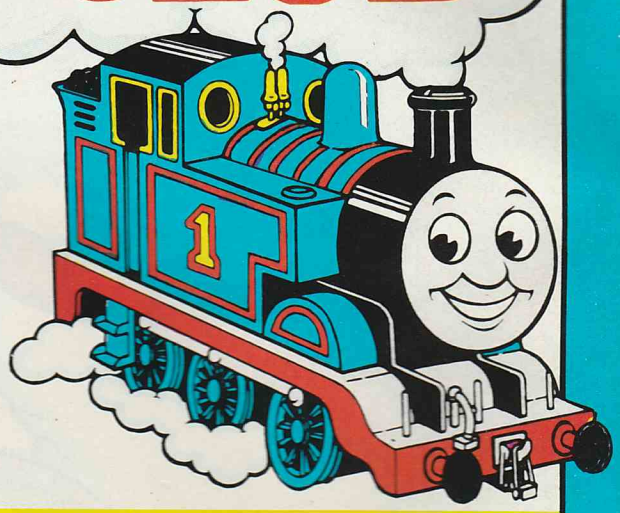
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Bother for Boco!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE!



Peep! Peep! Meet Bill and Ben, the tank engine twins, and a diesel called Boco. Bill and Ben work between the harbour and the clay pits mostly, and are probably the most *teasing* and *mischievous* of the whole Railway family.

DON'T MISS OUT!

By taking out a year's subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**, every issue will be sent **straight to your home** for a year! You will also automatically become a **member of the splendid Thomas Club** and receive a very smart **Club Pack!** Turn to page **18** for more details.

COLLECT TOKENS!

If you do not wish to subscribe but would like a membership card only, here's another way to join our Club. Just collect three tokens like the one below. Send one yellow, one red and one green one, together with a stamped, addressed envelope (at least 15 X 10cms) to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

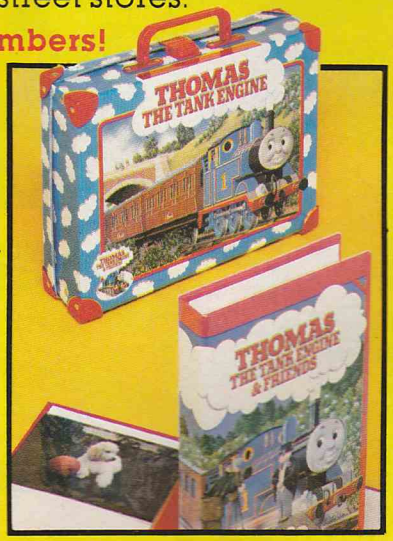
THOMAS TOKEN

IDEAL FOR HOME, SCHOOL OR HOLIDAYS!

Our picture shows a splendid **Thomas the Tank Engine case** and very smart **Thomas the Tank Engine photograph album**. The case is perfect for books, tapes, snacks, toys and games and you can keep all your favourite photographs in this neat, quality flip-up photograph album. The album holds up to 80 6" X 4" photos! Both are from *Biblio Graphic Products*, and are available from most big high street stores.

Calling all Club members!

We will be sending **12** photograph albums and **5** cases to the first **17 Club Members** to write in with a colour drawing of Thomas on a bright September day! Don't forget your name, age, address and membership number, and send your entry to: *Thomas's Case and Album Competition, Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*



Case size: 33 X 25 X 8cms

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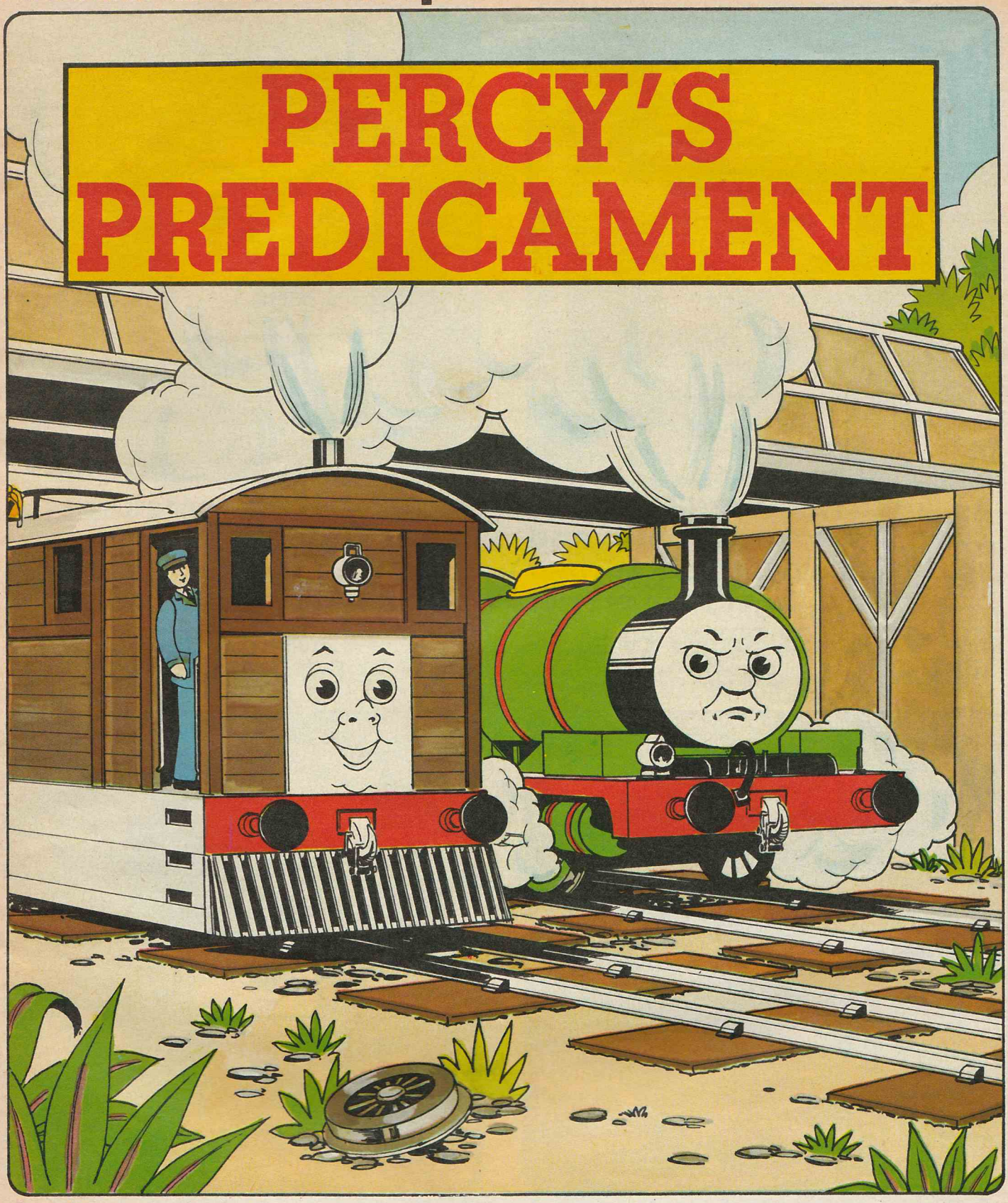
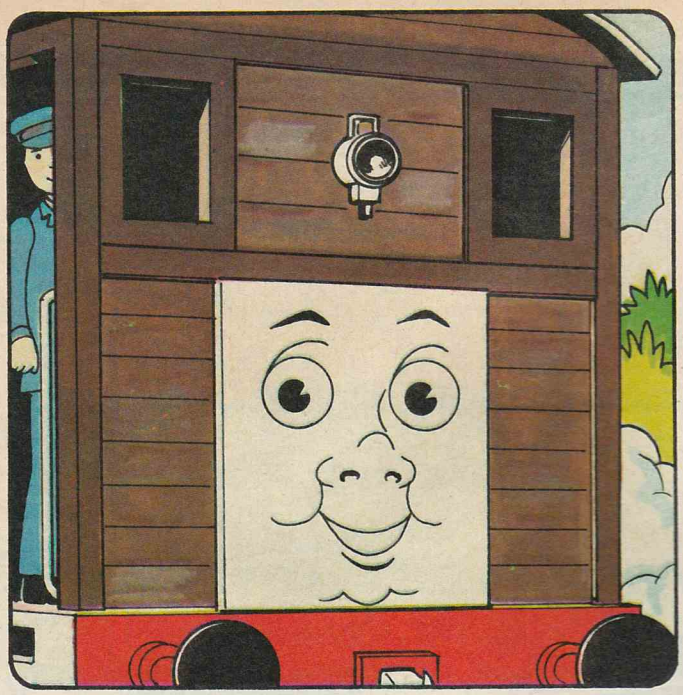
A listen and look story!

PERCY'S PREDICAMENT

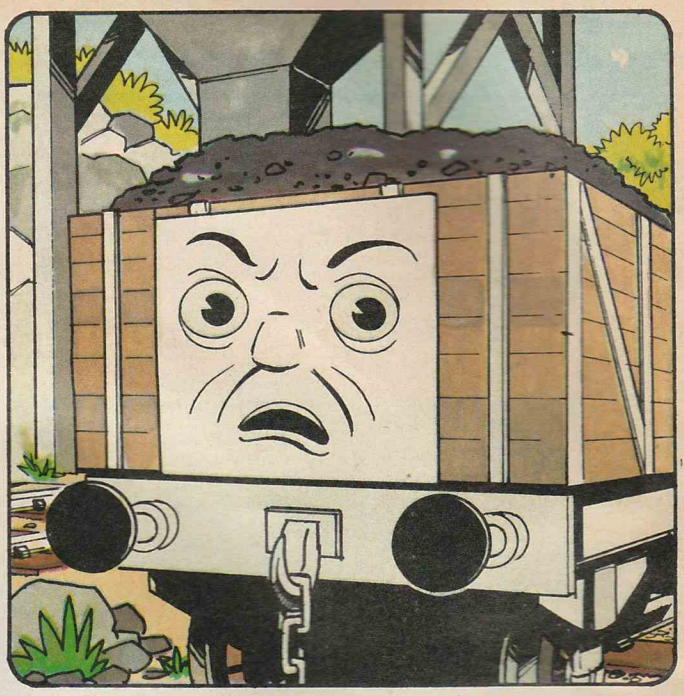


1. Daisy the Diesel Railcar remained lazy and stubborn. She was frightened of cows and bulls. One day Toby came to the station where Percy was shunting grumpily.

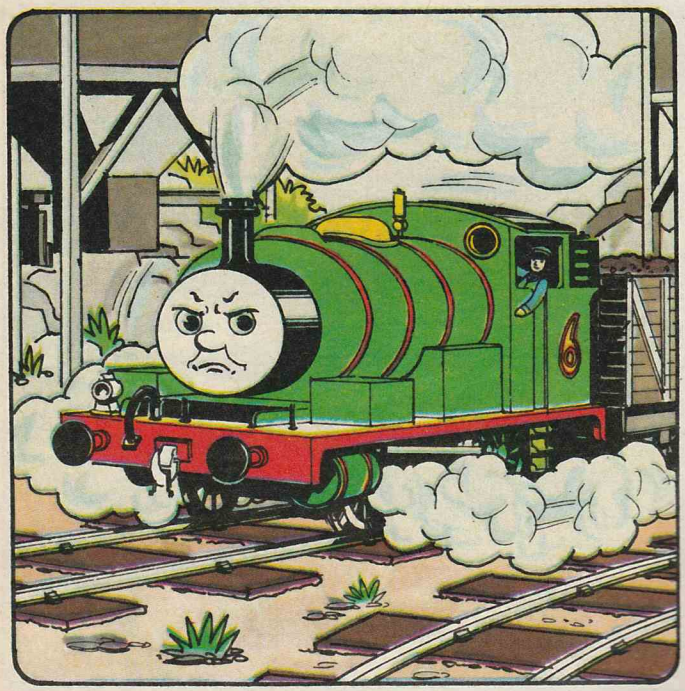
2. "Hello," said Toby. "I see Daisy has left the milk again." "I'll have to make a special journey with it, I suppose," grumbled Percy. "As if I'd nothing else to do."



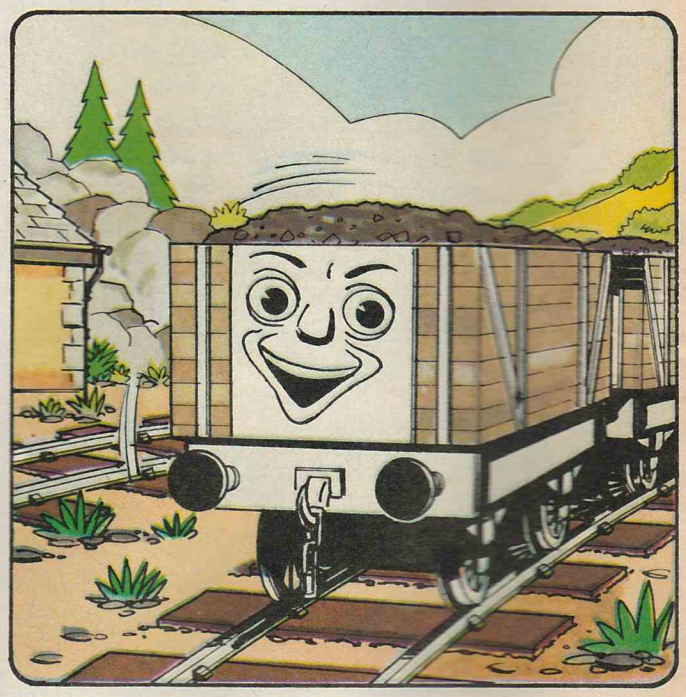
3. "Tell you what," replied Toby, "**I'll** take the milk and **you** fetch my trucks." Their drivers and the station master agreed. Percy puffed off to the quarry.



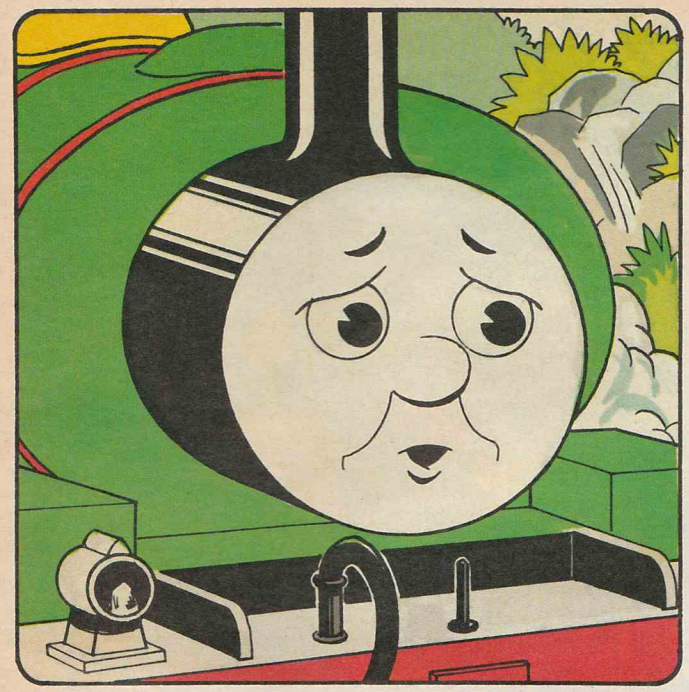
4. He began ordering the trucks about. "Hurry along now," he said. The trucks grumbled to each other. "This is Toby's place. Percy's got no right to push us around."



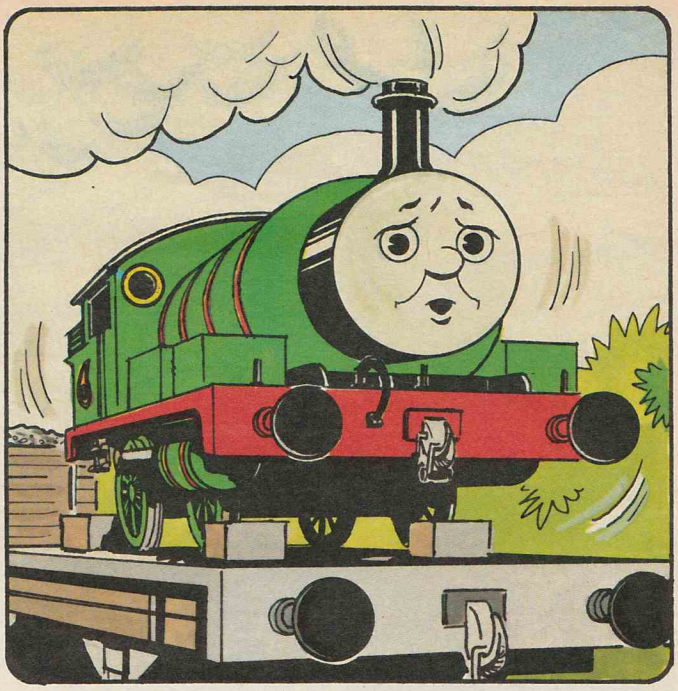
5. They whispered and passed the word. "Pay Percy out! Pay Percy out!" "Come along. No nonsense," puffed Percy. Percy thought the trucks were under control.



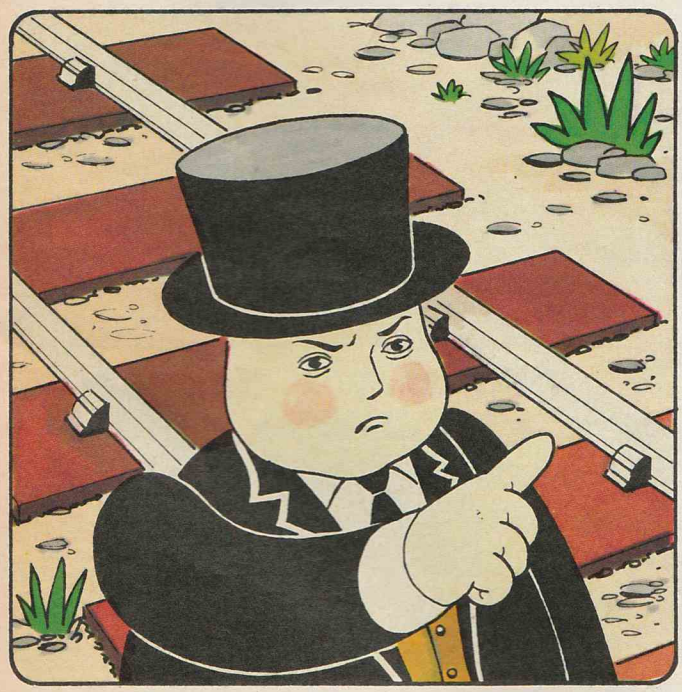
6. Suddenly he saw a notice ahead: **ALL TRAINS STOP TO PIN DOWN BRAKES.** "Peep peep! Brakes, Guard, please," Percy whistled. But the trucks surged forward giggling.



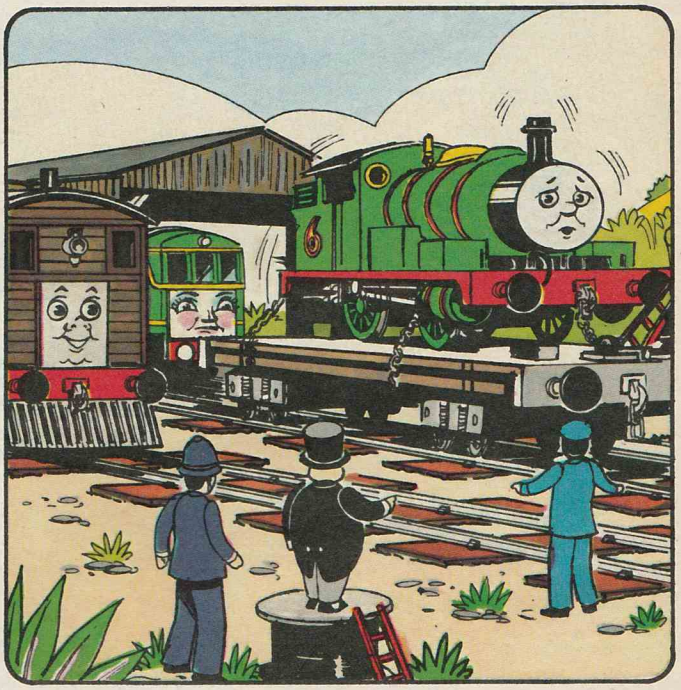
7. "On! On!" they cried. "Help!" whistled Percy. The man on duty at the crossing rushed to warn traffic, but was too late to switch Percy to the 'runaway' siding.



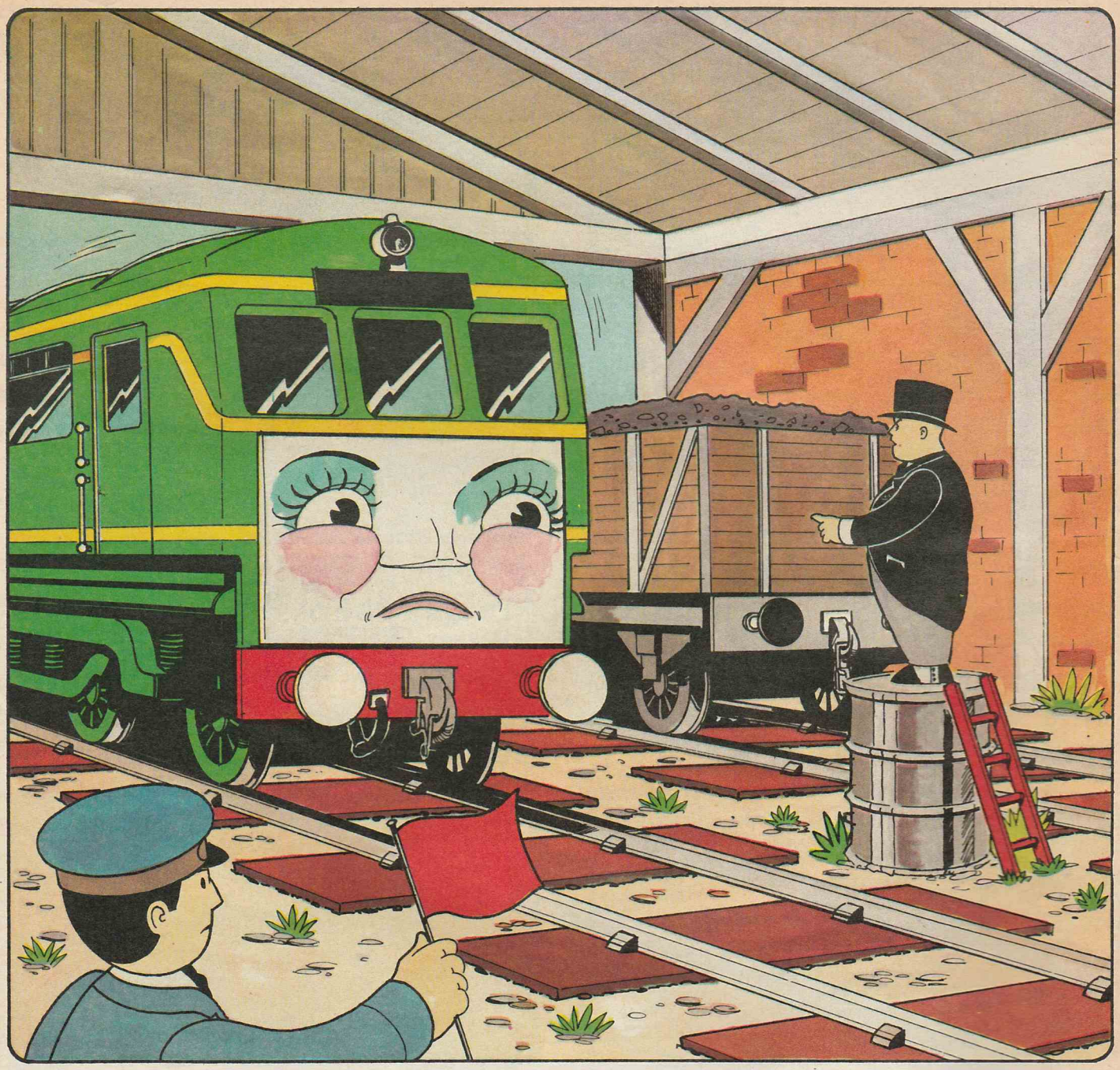
8. Percy slid into the yard. "Peep! Peep! Look out!" he whistled. There was a **crash!** His driver and fireman had jumped clear, but Percy was stranded, up on some trucks!



9. Next day Toby and Daisy helped to clear the wreckage. Percy remained on his perch of trucks. "Now Toby and Daisy must do your work as well," said the Fat Controller.



10. "You have put us in a very awkward predicament, Percy," said the Fat Controller. "You can stay there until we are ready. Perhaps it will teach you to be careful."



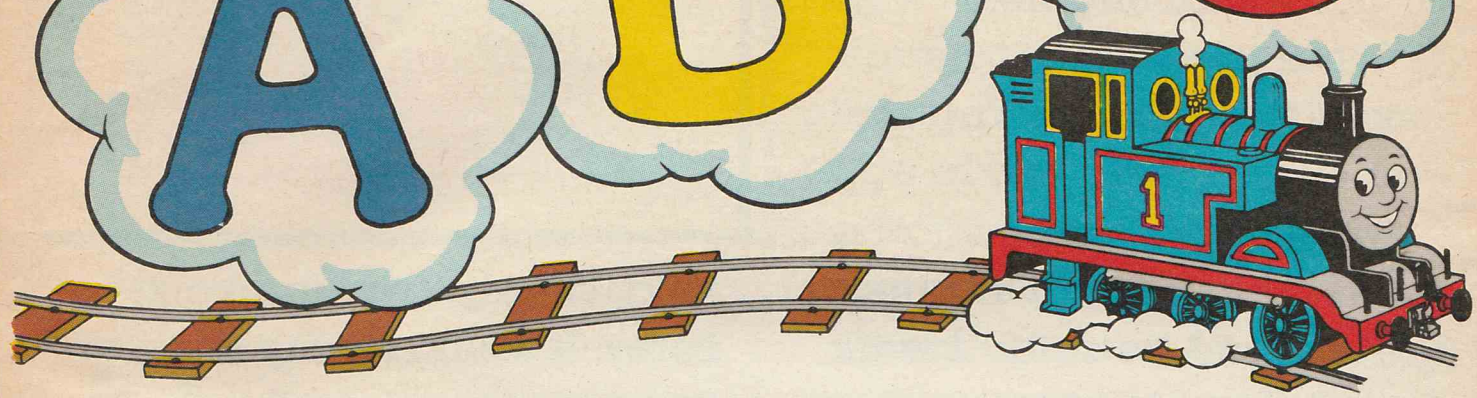
11. Percy sighed. The trucks groaned beneath his wheels. He quite understood awkward predicaments. The Fat Controller spoke severely to Daisy. "My engines must work hard. I send lazy engines away." Daisy was ashamed. "However," he went on, "Toby says you worked hard after Percy's accident, so you shall have another chance."

12. "Thank you, sir," said Daisy. "I will work hard, sir. Toby says he will help me." "Excellent!" said the Fat Controller. The next day Thomas came back and Percy was sent to be mended. All are now friends and Toby has taught Daisy a great deal. She often takes the milk for Thomas, and when Toby is busy, she takes Henrietta!

In our next issue: Gordon makes a mistake!

Cut out and collect!

A B C



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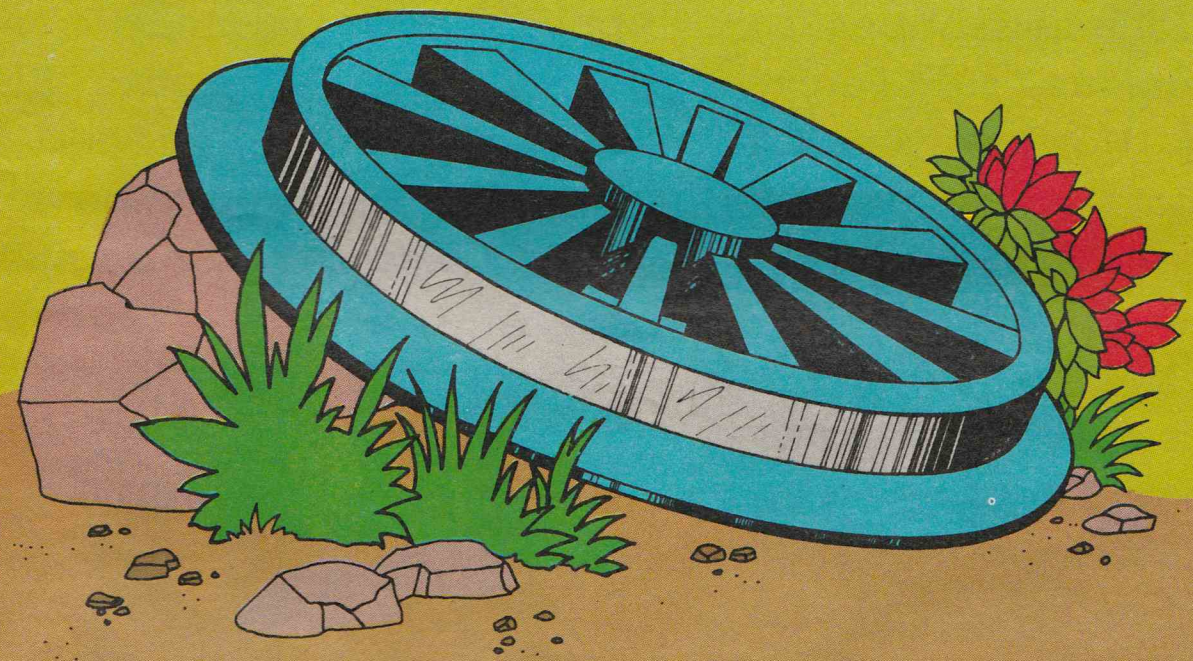


wheel

A read-aloud story!

Percy the N

A reporter from the local newspaper had come to the station. He wanted to write a story about steam engines.

"What is your job?" he asked Percy. "How hard do you work?"

Percy began to boast. "I'm the most important engine at the station," he said. "I work very hard indeed."

The reporter took Percy's photograph, and then he left.

That evening, Percy's driver came and showed Percy his picture. It was on the front page of the newspaper

"I'm **famous,"** said Percy, happily. "Now everyone will know that I am the best engine on the Island of Sodor."

Percy became big-headed. "Famous engines shouldn't have to pull coal trucks," he grumbled. "I should be cleaned and polished and shown off to important visitors."

The Fat Controller became cross with Percy. "All my engines are important," he said, sternly. "Not just you, Percy. If we have any more of this nonsense, I shall have to think about replacing you with another engine."

The other engines were getting cross with Percy too.

"We are happy that your photograph was in the newspaper," said James. "But we're tired of all your boasting. You used to be such a pleasant little engine, Percy."

newspaper

makes News

A few days later, the reporter came back to do another story about Percy.

"Our readers enjoyed reading about you," he said.

Percy allowed the reporter to climb on to his footplate. The reporter started fiddling with the controls.

"Don't do that," said Percy nervously. "Only my driver is allowed to touch my controls."

Percy's warnings came too late. Percy began to move. The reporter quickly jumped off him. Percy found he couldn't stop.

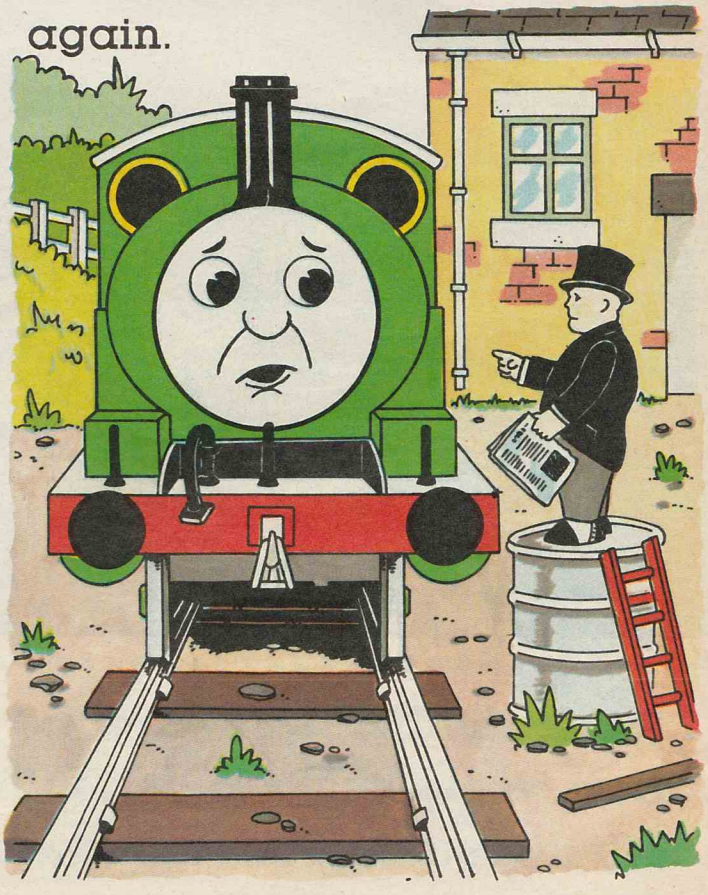
"Help," he cried. Luckily, Percy didn't roll too far. He was stopped by a tar wagon on the track. The tar splashed all over him.

The Fat Controller told the reporter to leave, but not before he had taken one last photograph of Percy.

That evening, Percy's photograph was on the front page of the newspaper again. It showed Percy covered in tar.

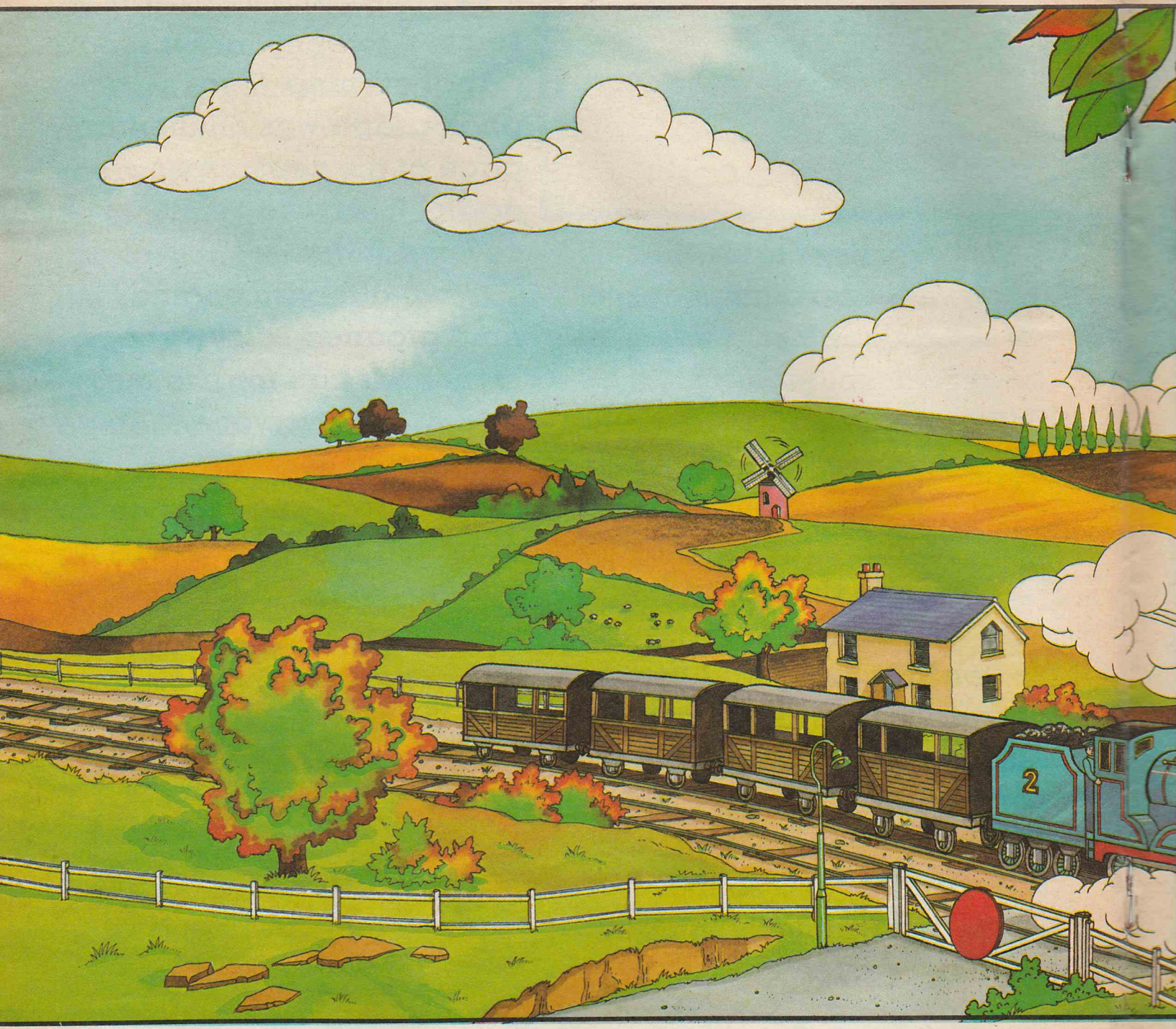
"What a foolish engine I am," groaned Percy. "I hope my friends can forgive me."

They did. Everyone laughed at Percy's photograph, and Percy promised not to be so silly again.



THE END

Over the leve



What number is Edward the Blue Engine?

How many trucks is he pulling?

What is sailing through the sky?

Who is waiting at the level crossing?

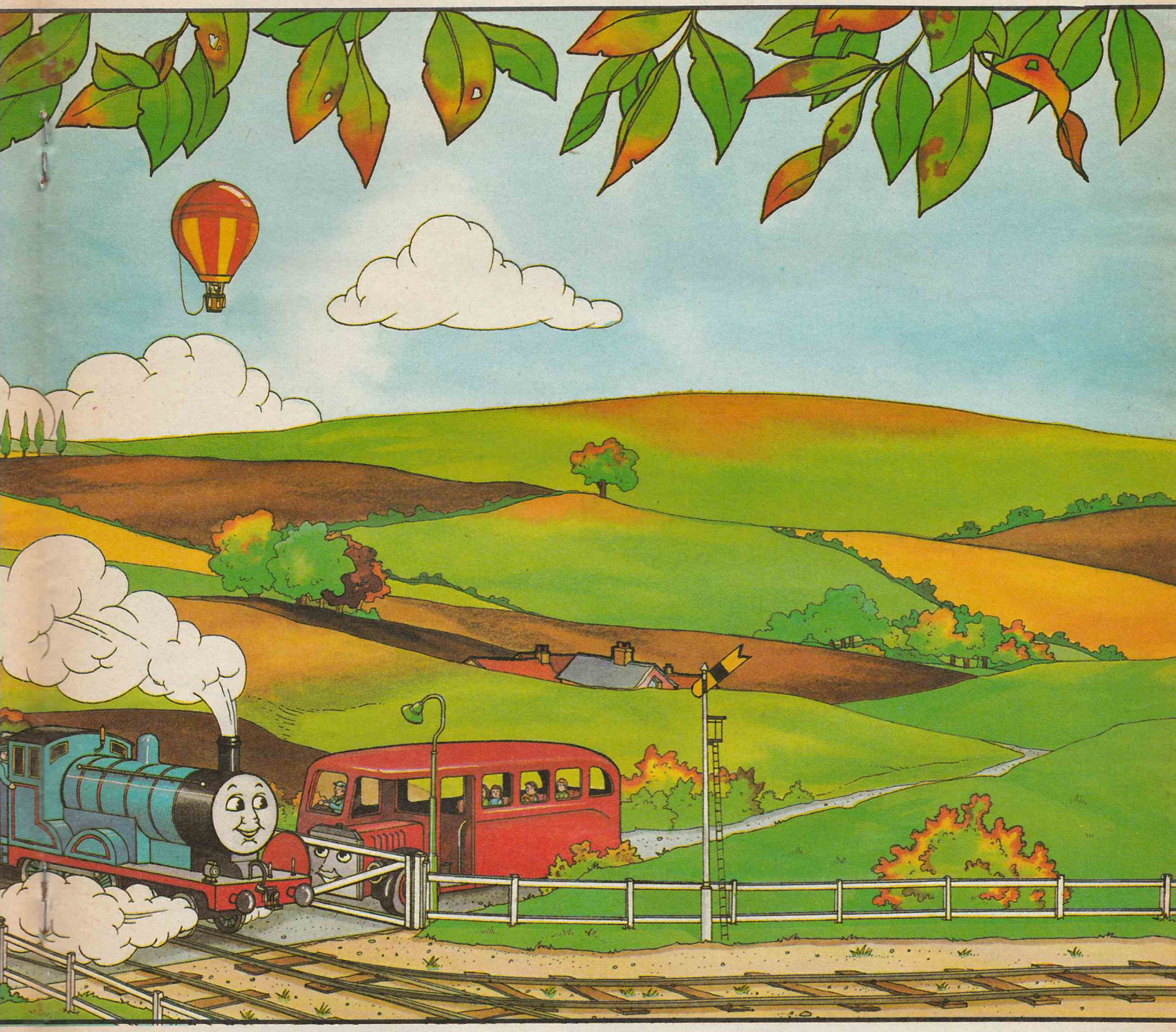
What colour

Is the signal

Point to the

Is it a windy

el crossing!



colour is he?

signal up or down?

o the windmill!

windy day?

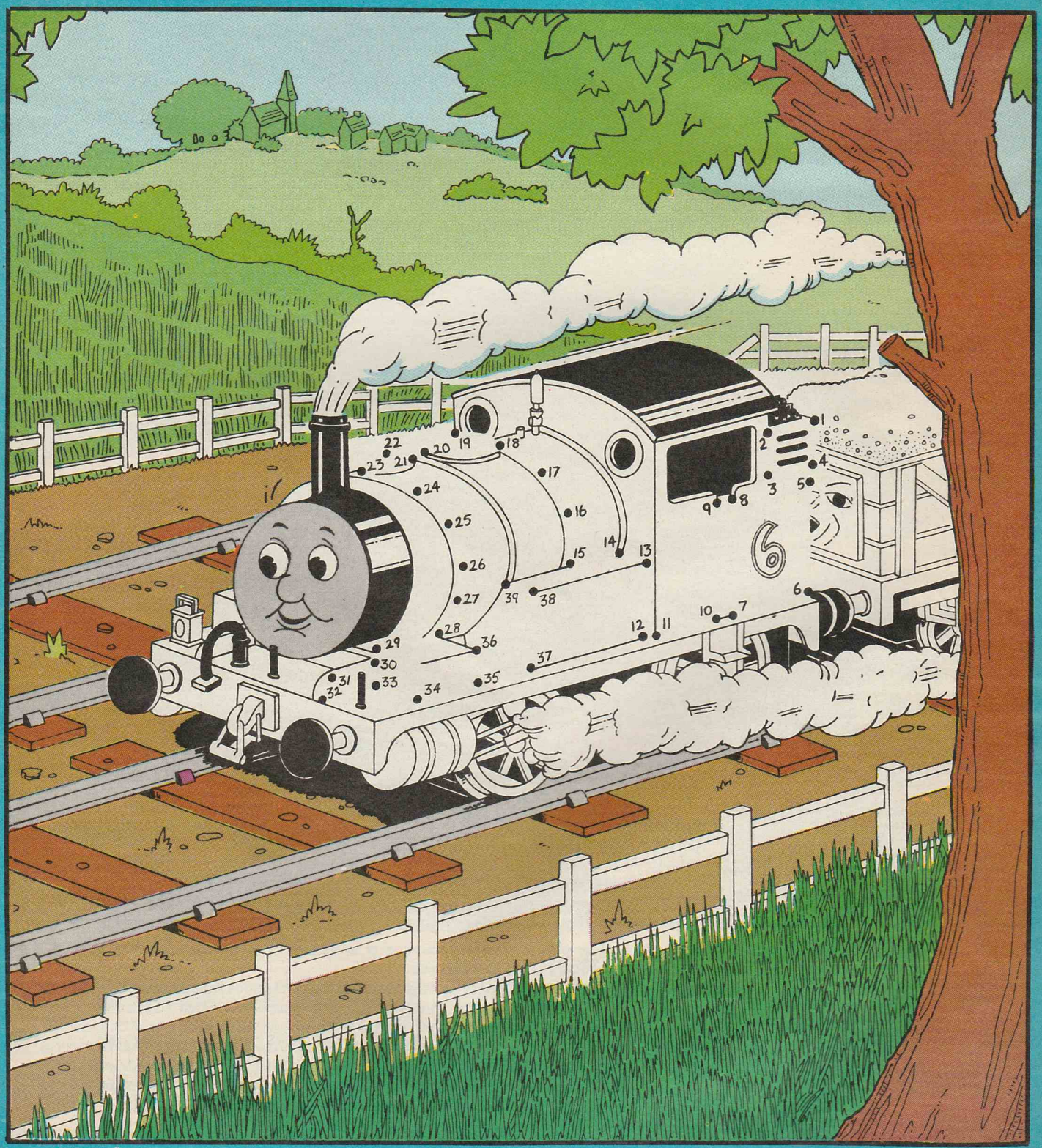
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

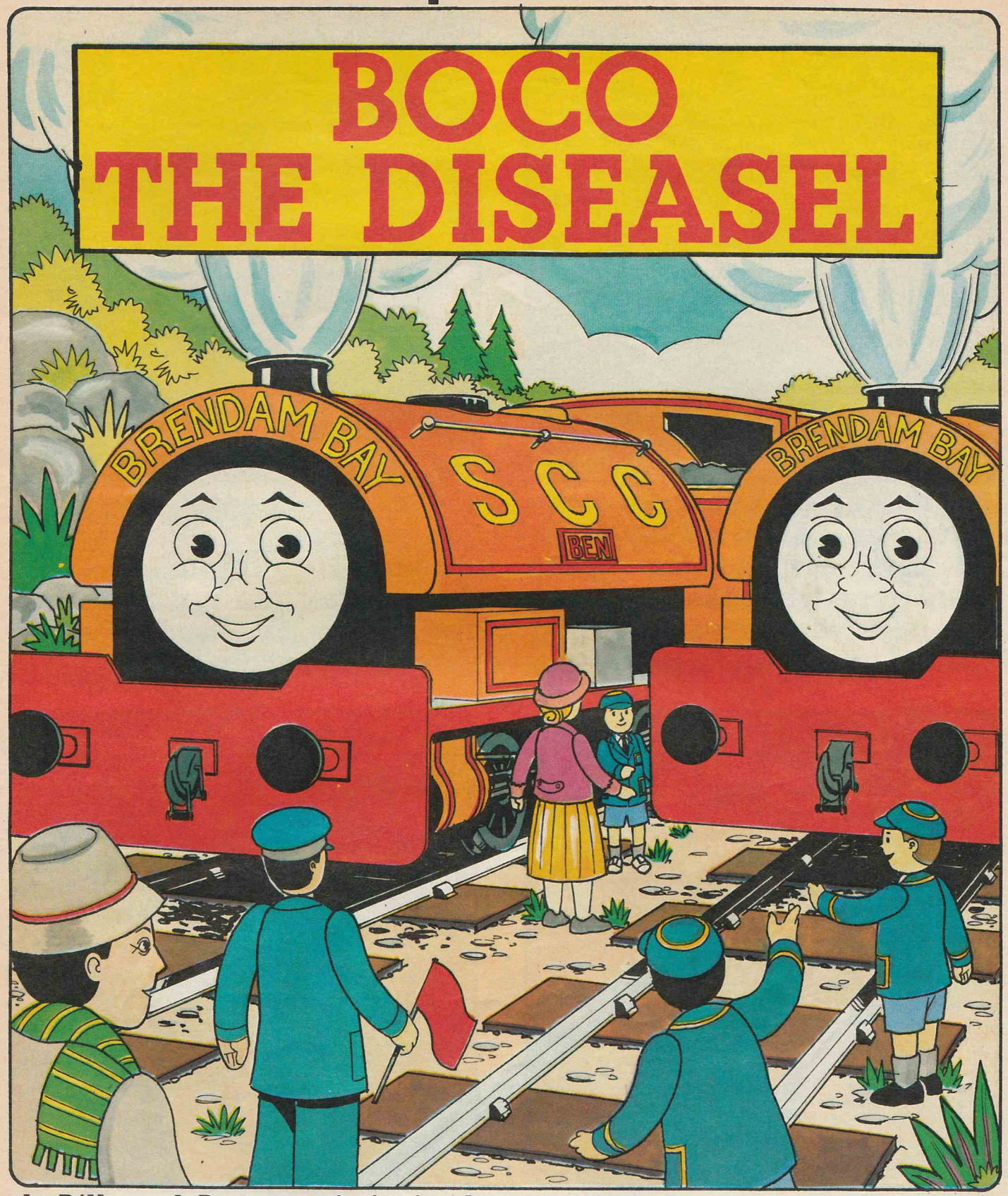
Next: Hello there!

JOIN THE DOTS!

Who's this puffing by? Yes! It's Percy the Small Engine! Join the dots and then finish colouring the picture!

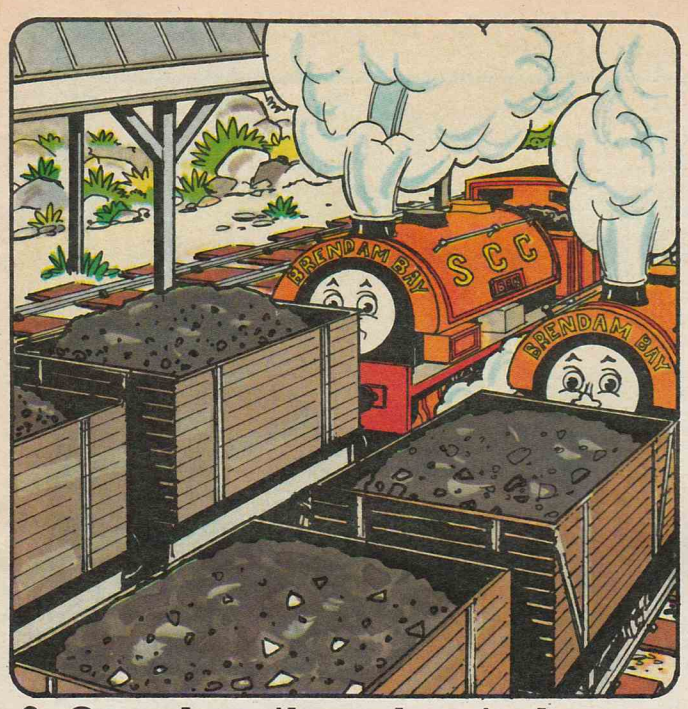


A listen and look story!

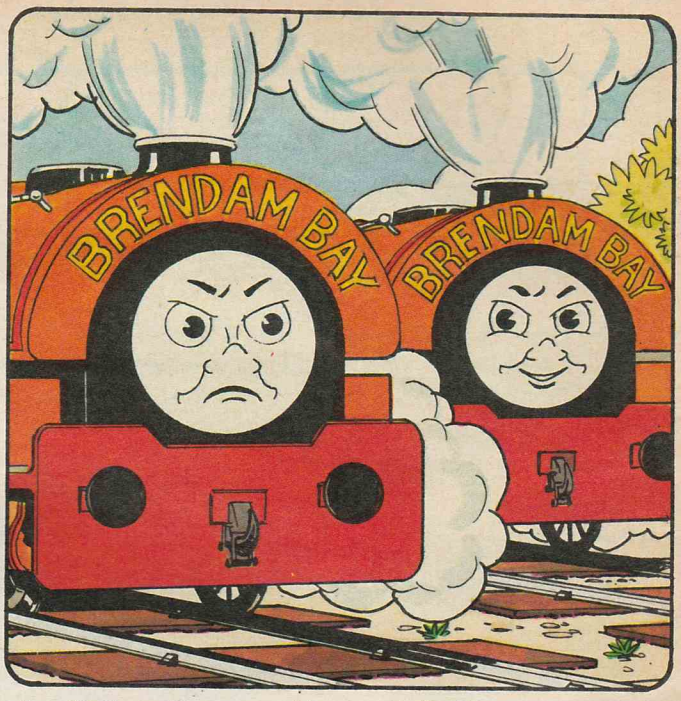


1. Bill and Ben are twin tank engines. Each has four wheels, a tiny chimney and dome, and a small squat cab. They are kept busy pulling trucks on the main line.

2. Their trucks are filled with china clay, which is needed for pottery, paper, paint and many other things. They take the china clay to the ships in the harbour.

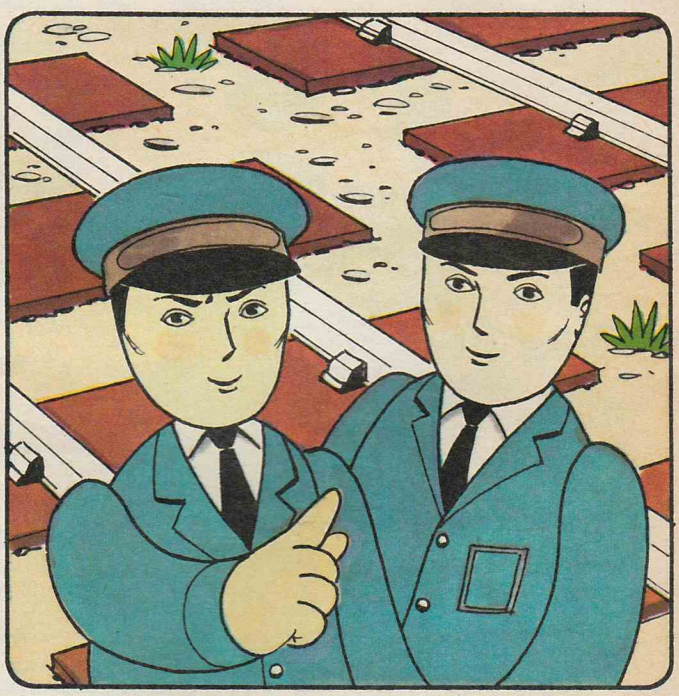


3. One day, they shunted some trucks and went off for more. To their surprise the trucks were gone when they returned. Their drivers examined a patch of oil which was left.

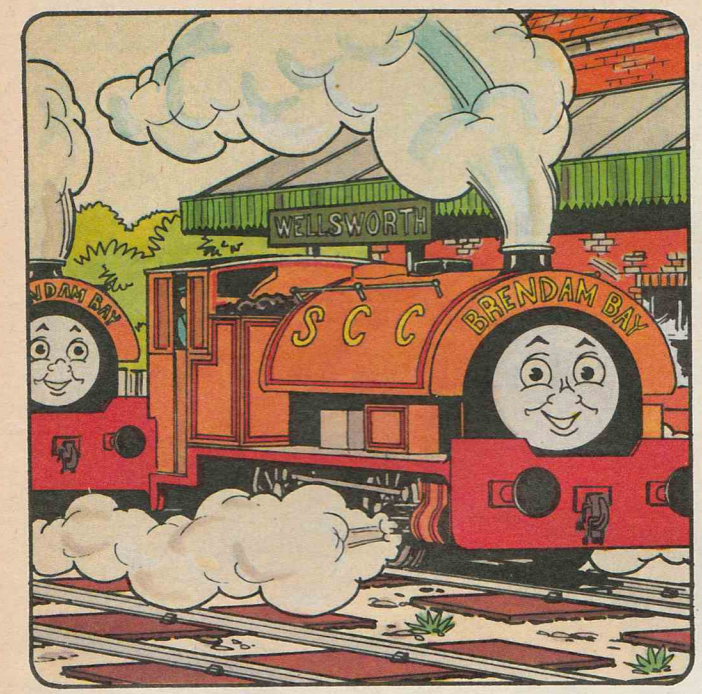


4. "That's a diesel," they said. "It's a what'll?" Bill asked. "A diseasel," replied Ben. "Remember the notice in our shed? 'Coughs and sneezes spread diseasels'."

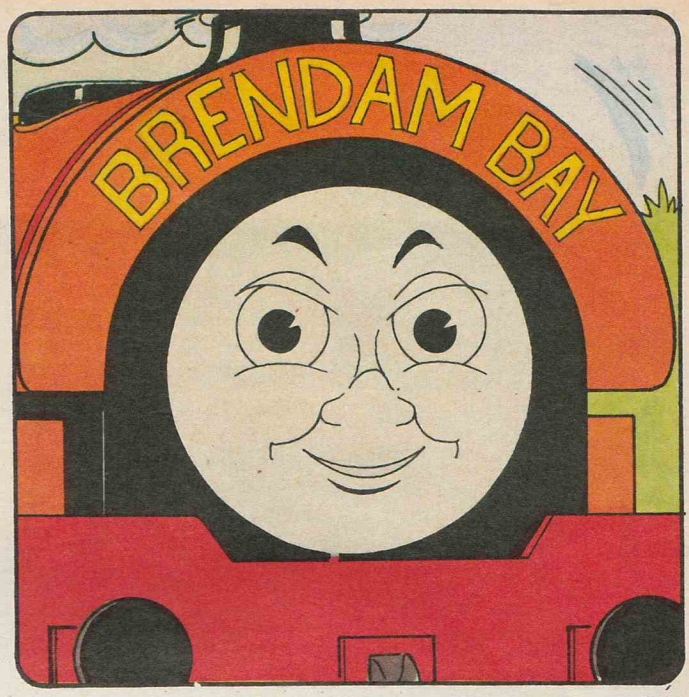
5. "**You** had a cough in your smoke box the other day," said Ben. "It's **your** fault the diseasel came, Bill!" "It isn't!" "It is!" "Stop arguing," said the drivers.



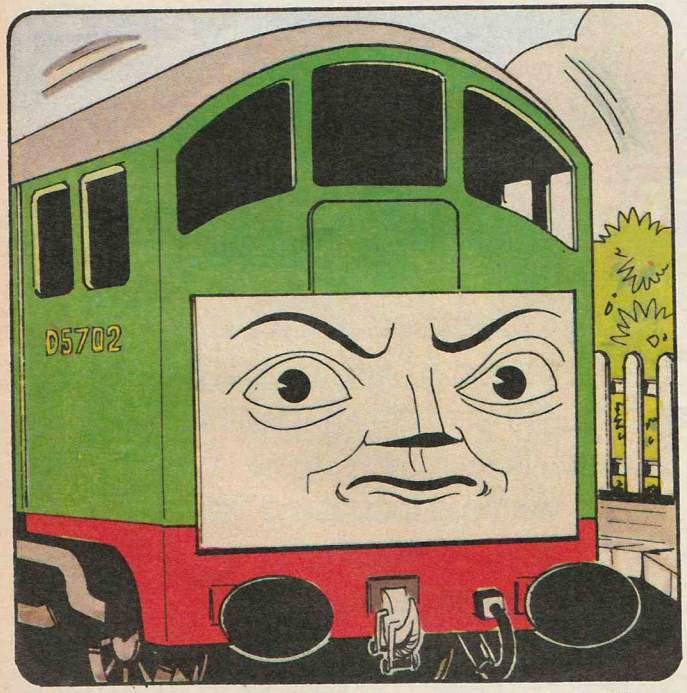
6. "Let's go and get our trucks back from the diesel," said the drivers. "Listen – he doesn't know you're twins. We'll take away your names and numbers and then . . ."



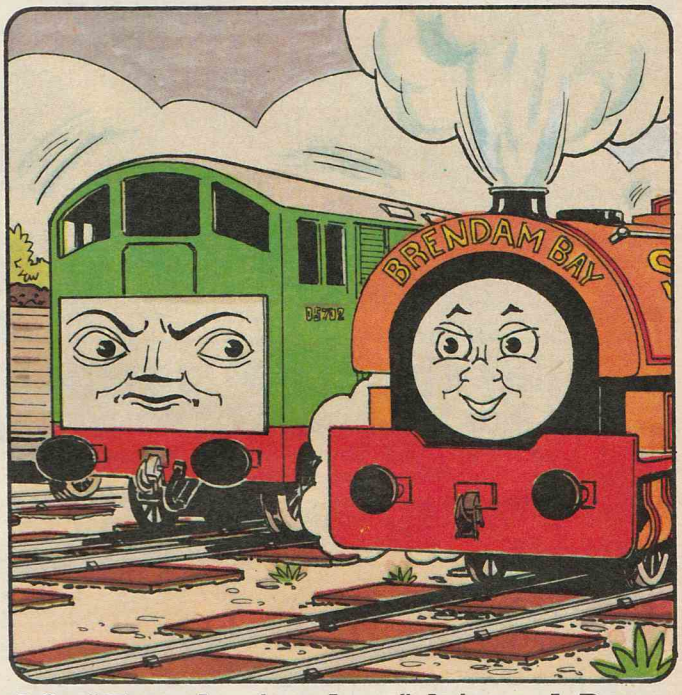
7. The twins set off the find the diesel. They couldn't wait to play tricks on him. Creeping into the yard, they found the diesel on a siding with the missing trucks.



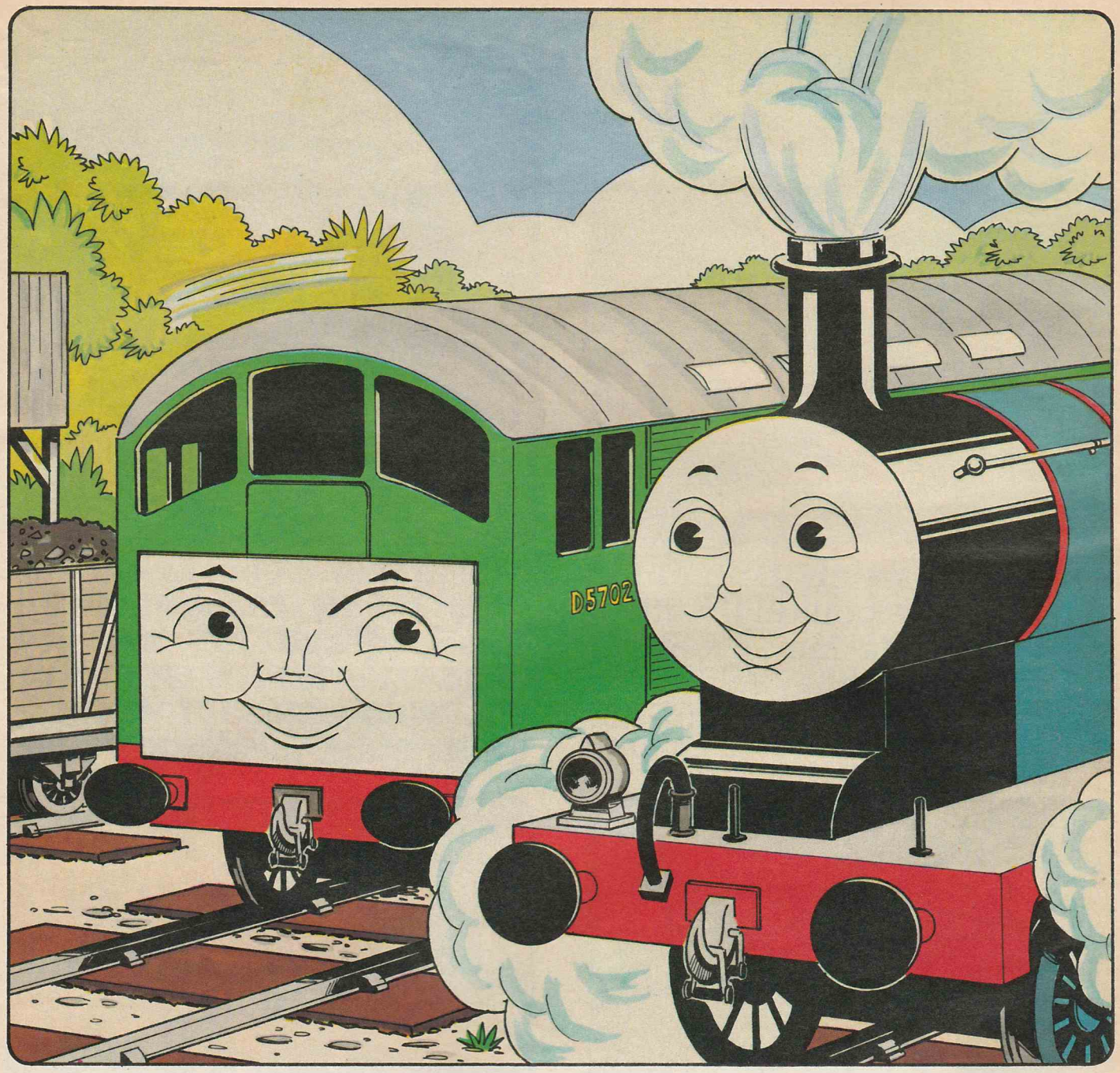
8. Ben hid behind, but Bill went boldly alongside. The diesel looked up. "Do you mind?" he asked. "Yes," said Bill. "I do indeed. I want my trucks back, please."



9. "These are mine," said the diesel. "Go away." Bill pretended to be frightened. He ran back and hid behind the trucks. Ben now came forward on the other side.



10. "Truck stealer," hissed Ben. He ran away too. Bill took his place. On and on it went till the diesel's eyes nearly popped out. "Stop!" he begged, "I feel giddy."



11. The two engines gazed at him. "Are there two of you?" he asked. "Yes," chimed Bill and Ben. "We're twins." The diesel groaned. Edward bustled up. "Bill and Ben, why are you playing here?" "We're rescuing our trucks," said Ben. "This diseasel took them." "Don't be so rude," said Edward.

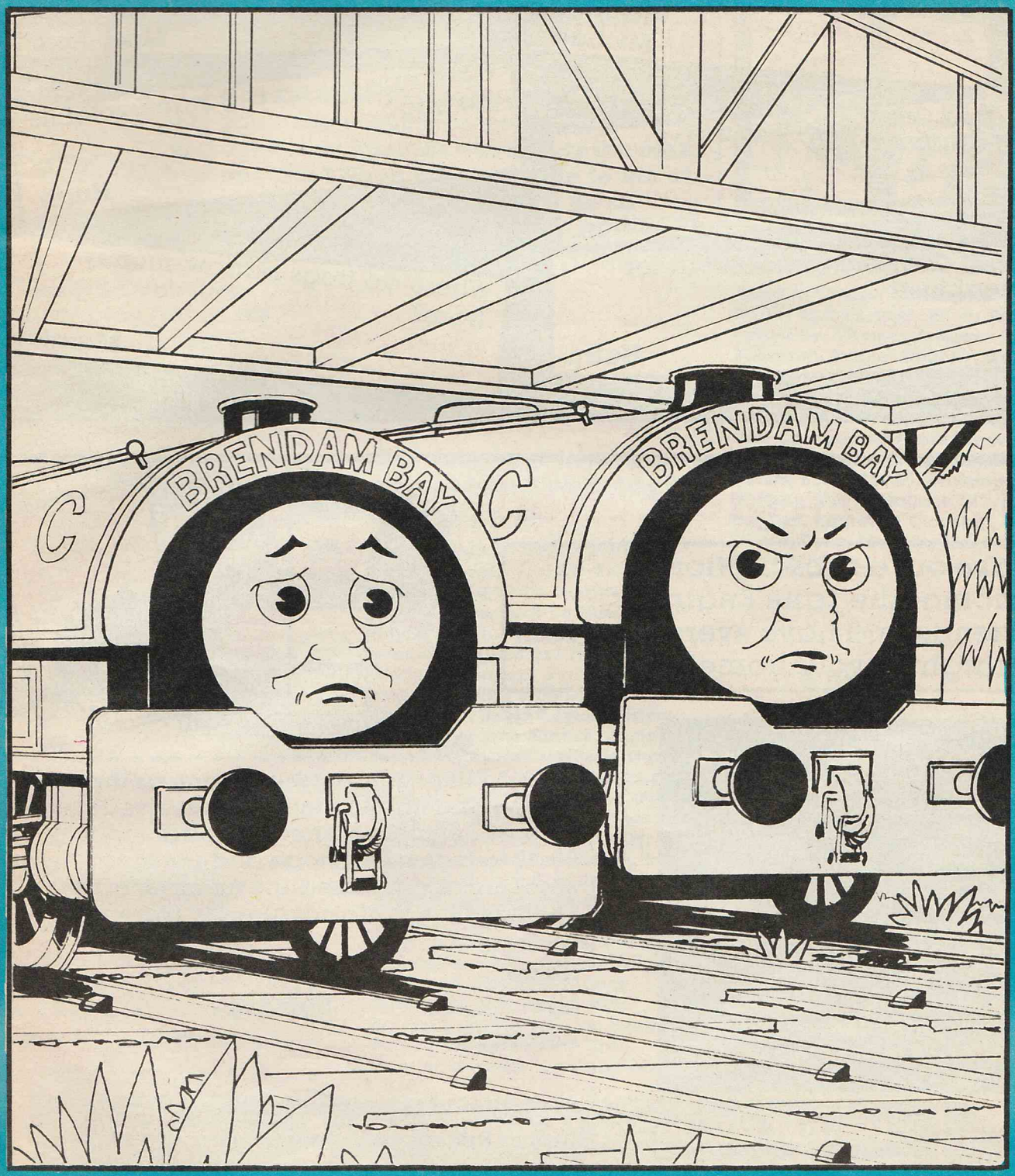
12. "This engine," continued Edward, "is a Metropolitan Vickers Diesel-Electric, type two." The twins were abashed. "We're sorry, Mr. . . er. . ." "Call me Boco," said the diesel. "I didn't understand about the trucks. I'm sorry." The twins scampered away. "There's no real harm in them," said Edward, "but they're maddening at times."

THE END

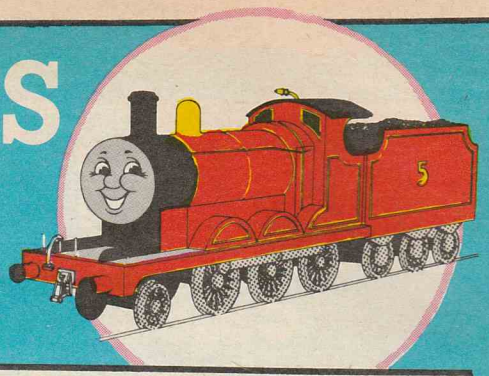
In our next issue: Edward to the rescue!

COLOURING TIME!

Colour this picture if you will,
Then see who's Ben and who is Bill!



JAMES'S JAPES



Thank you for sending us all your funny jokes. Here are a few of James's favourites!

What goes 'Oom'?
A cow walking backwards!
Michael.

What do frogs drink?
Croak-a-cola!
Mary-Ann.

Why did the banana go to hospital?
Because he wasn't peeling well!
Jonathan.

What runs round a garden without moving?
A fence!
Hugh.

What does a snowman eat for breakfast?
Snowflakes!
Harry.

Where do frogs borrow money from?
A river bank!
Maurice.

News of a great offer!

Take out a subscription to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends and have every issue sent straight to your home!

What's more, if you do not already belong to the **Thomas Club,** you will automatically become an immediate member and your exciting **Club Pack** will be sent to you too!
It costs **£9.75** including postage and packing, to be sent **26 issues** of **Thomas the Tank Engine.** Just fill in the form and send it, together with a cheque or postal order for £9.75 to: *Thomas subscriptions, Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Please allow 28 days for delivery of your first magazine and Club Pack.

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Name.....

Age.....**Birthday**.....

Address.....

.....

Signature of parent/guardian.....

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Make your cheque or postal order payable to *Marvel Comics Ltd.*

Write to:

THE FAT CONTROLLER

Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below! I would be so pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
At my play group we pretend to be your engines. At rest time we say we are going to our shed. I fall asleep sometimes.
Love from **Robert,** aged 4.

I expect you need a rest! My engines are always glad to get back to their shed after a hard day's work.
Robert wins **Thomas the Tank Engine vinyl stickers,** from *Scorpio Products International Ltd.*

REMOTE CONTROLLER!

Dear Fat Controller,
We have a remote controlled video at home. Instead of calling it a remote control, I call it a Fat Control after you.
Love from **Terry,** aged 3½.

And I hope it works properly, Terry! I do not have any such things at home, myself.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday and belated birthday wishes go to:

Richard Ramm, Anthony Mallon, Craif Tidswell, Andrew Graham Saville, Paul Watts, James Boult, Steven Cross, Joanne Hawkins, Sarah Pankhurst, Mark Lewis Glendinning, Louise Devey, Matthew Saggers, Jonathan R. Morgan, Philip Wood, Peter Everitt, Ian Robin Layton, Wayne Hufton, Semone Hindes, James Burman, Christopher Peck, David Towers, Stefan Mark Cox, Gary Fletcher, Craig Mawhinney, Olive Usher, Stephen Maull, Graham Warren, Jonathan Scott Kelly, Adam Branson, Gavin Creek, Iain Forecast, Gareth Cunningham, Oliver Gates, Matthew Chapman, Daryl Love, Steven Pick, David Lane, Iain McGuinness, David Copeland, Jamie Collyer, Adam Matthews, Robert Lawrence Dodds, Thomas Pasco, Kyle Paterson, Nadim Jasani, Paula Boot, Christopher Flanagan, Samuel Munnery, Louis Hately, Graham Forster, Christopher Dunn, and **Thomas Elliott, Amy Valentine, Thomas Andrew Robinson, Daniel Henehy, Greg Thomson, Derek Cook, Mark Sheehy, Simon King, Gary Simpson, Conor Laverty, Adam** and **Carrie-Anne Poole, Andrew Hanson, Andrew Burge, Duncan Carter, Sarah Lynes, Christopher Hedges, Steven Holland, Tarnya Hughes, Laurence Clouston, Steven Flynn, Matthew Linett** and **Peter Rorrison.**

If you'd like a birthday mention, please send details on a postcard, at least **8 weeks** in advance! I cannot promise to print all the birthdays I receive, but I will do my best!

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

The Fat Controller.

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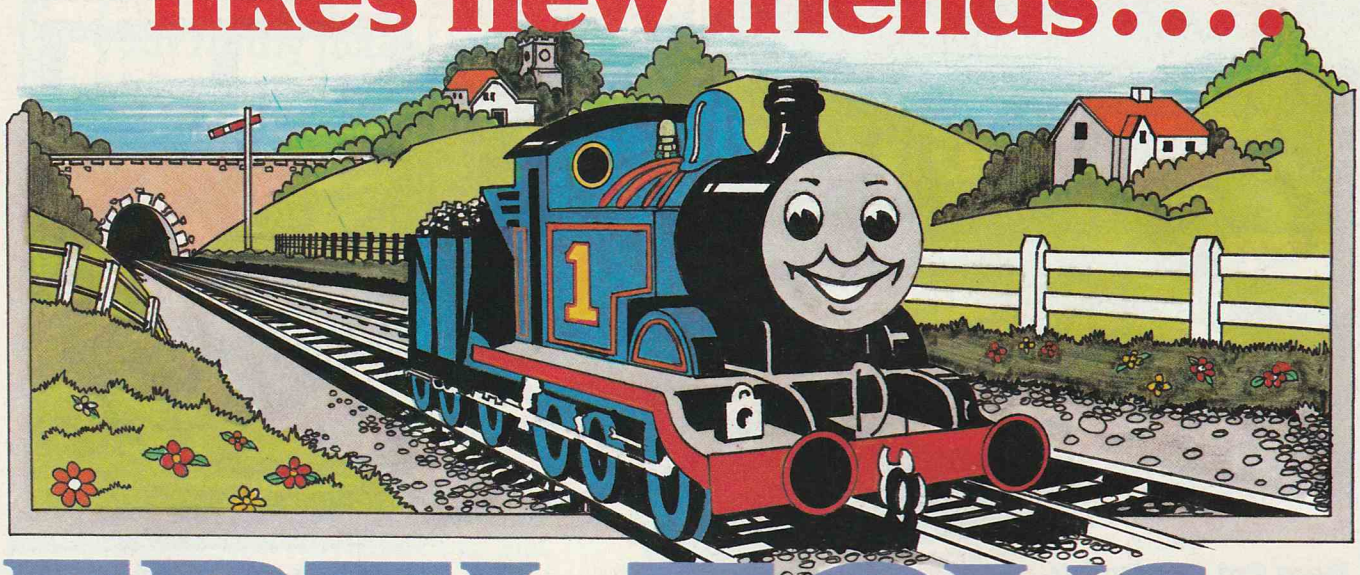

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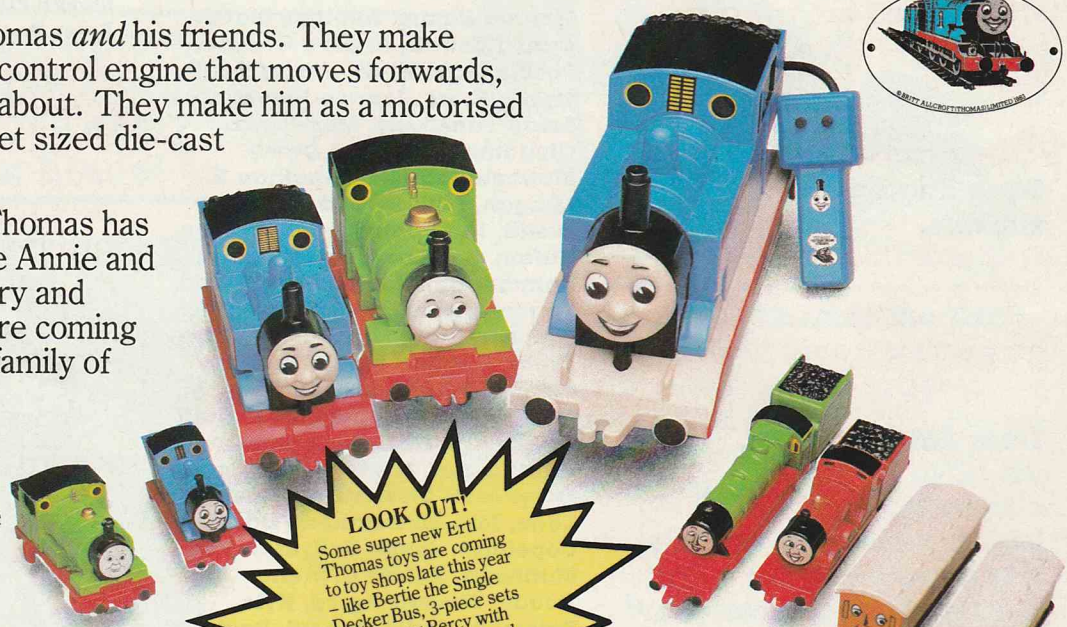

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